

included in this database will be granted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services who will work in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture. A task force consisting of anticipated users, representatives of food manufacturers, processors, packers, transporters, and representatives of consumer groups will also advise the Secretary as to what information needs to be included to ensure our loved ones' safety. The Secretary will also have the authority to make grants to states to help them access and use the database.

The information that will be provided by the database is critical to public health. We need to prevent outbreaks of food-borne illness in our schools. Earlier this year a school in Illinois received ammonia-tainted food and did not receive adequate notification that the product had been contaminated. Luckily, no one died, but a number of teachers and students suffered. Currently the ability of hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and child care providers to provide quality care is compromised by their inability to get adequate and timely food safety information. Safety histories of the companies are not shared with the officials who purchase the food. Due to a complex web of food manufacturers, distributors and brokers, if the USDA or FDA announces that a manufacturer has produced tainted food, officials often have no way to determine if affected foods are in their kitchens and being served to our loved ones.

A person fed tainted food can experience diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Those in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and child care centers are by far the most vulnerable among us. Their immune systems are not as strong; their bodies are just not as sturdy. They can become very ill and can even die from food-borne illness, as far too many already have.

Food manufacturers also stand to gain from this bill. Companies that have a history of providing safe food will have that fact known. Should an accident occur and there is an outbreak, it will be much easier for companies to know where the tainted food has gone. The company will be able to stop the outbreak faster and reduce their liability.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation that will increase the safety of the most vulnerable in our society. Our loved ones deserve to know that someone is looking out for their safety while they can't do it themselves. Without this bill, we can't make that guarantee.

EDUCATION FUNDING

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern over the failure to fund and adequately implement the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

This bipartisan legislation attempted a comprehensive approach to reforming our schools by refocusing our national education policy on helping states and local school districts raise academic achievement for all children, while providing more funding and flexibility to states and local districts.

The legislation passed with overwhelming support because it included tough accountability requirements aimed at closing the achievement gap between students of different economic backgrounds; stronger professional development standards and training for teachers; additional resources do turn around low performing schools; allowances for an unprecedented level of flexibility for local school districts; and rewards and sanctions for States based on the academic performance of students.

Despite the bill's good intentions and tremendous support in Congress, the legislation has become largely a hollow promise to our children because of inadequate funding. The Administration's budget request this year provided only \$22.7 billion for these important education efforts—\$9.7 billion less than what Congress agreed was necessary.

The commitment of significant federal funding to assist local schools in meeting the new testing, achievement and training requirements was a solemn promise made to all the children of our nation. NCLB imposes strict standards on our school districts with considerable penalties if they do not comply. But how can our schools be expected to meet these new standards without adequate federal funding to meet these challenging mandates?

For this reason, I have cosponsored legislation, the Keeping Our Promises to America's Children Act of 2003, to suspend application of NCLB until the funding that was promised to our schools is actually delivered to our schools. The alternative merely sets up our schools for failure.

Implementation of this important law has also been unduly harsh. Award-winning science teachers who have excelled at teaching for decades are deemed unqualified because their bachelor's degree was in a different subject. As someone who supported passage of NCLB, I am alarmed by its poor funding and implementation.

Passing the NCLB was only one step in the lawmaking process. To enact real education reform and to implement the new education standards within NCLB, we must appropriate the full funding required, and not blind ourselves in its application. We must not short-change our children's education.

I ask my colleagues today to reaffirm the Congress's commitment to the No Child Left Behind Act and support full funding authorized by the legislation.

CONGRATULATING BROWNSVILLE PORTER COWBOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Porter Cowboys on their incredible season, as they just completed their first-ever winning record and were one win away from a perfect regular season record.

In the almost 30 years of the school's history, the Cowboys football team has endured many tough seasons and constant criticism to their program.

However, last week they won their first-ever playoff game beating PSJA 45-8 and advanced to the second round of the Texas high school playoffs where they now face Gregory Portland. I wish them the best as they continue their amazing playoff run and season.

The Porter Cowboy story is one that has everyone in the community and in the Rio Grande Valley extremely excited and energized. Guided by Coach Jim Helms and his exceptional staff, this talented group of players exceeded virtually all expectations that many had for them coming into the season. Of course, the players and coaches had something else in mind when they were preparing in the off-season and now they are in the middle of a dream season; a season that the faculty, students and families, along with the players, will never forget.

As these Porter players make history on the football field they are now only opening the doors to the future in which they will be part of a generation that will make positive changes to the lives of many living in the community. The same determination and commitment they possess on the football field every Friday night will prepare them to respond accordingly when faced with life's challenges and obstacles.

The Porter Nation as they have come to be known were led by their star quarterback and he was surrounded by a cast of gifted athletes that contributed to the success of the stellar season. The arsenal in the passing game, complemented with a tremendous defense and an excellent kicking game enabled them to truly dominate their opponents.

I am so proud of these guys and wish them the best as they continue to achieve their goals both on the field and in the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that the roster with the names of each player, coach, and trainer be inserted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

2003 PORTER COWBOYS FOOTBALL VARSITY ROSTER

Chris Walker, Evy Chavez, Emmanuel Gutierrez, Rick Monsivais, Jason Bernard, Chris Vasquez, Billy Garza, Ivan Villarreal, Michael Verduzco, Mike Salazar, Manuel Hernandez, Steve Garcia, Jimmy Gutierrez, Benny Salazar, Moises Salinas, Ivan Iglesias, and Louie Pineda.

Rogelio Camarillo, Ben Gomez, Jesus Chapa, Carlos Lozano, Angel Ramirez, Jesus Ferrer, Luis Cruz, Jose Izaguirre, Thomas J. Rios, Joe Espinoza, Juan Leal, Javier Ruiz, Josh Burguete, Eli Perez, Ernesto Olivarez, Isaac Almaguer, and Omar Avila.

David Pallares, Emmanuel Lopez, Eliseo Balderas, Christian Lara, Stephen Cisneros, Eber Flores, David Diaz, Julian Mendez, Oscar De Los Santos, Juan Peña, Julius Williams, Frankie Ramirez, Danny Palacios, Juan Perez, Jose Guerra, Will Jaramillo, and Gilbert Flores.

Athletic Director: Joe A. Rodriguez.

Athletic Coordinator: Jim Helms.

Football Assistants: Art Cantu, Ruben Cor tez, Bill Deen, Luis Garza, Benny Gonzalez, James Kizer, Abel Moreno, Danny Pardo, Armando Rangel, Tom Rios, Jeffrey Rodriguez, and Jose Luis Zarate.

Trainers: John Prosek and Jerry San Pedro.